

THE
T R I U M P H
O F
D U L L N E S S,
A P O E M:

OCCASIONED BY
A LATE GRACE PASSED IN THE UNIVERSITY
OF CAMBRIDGE.

Still her old empire to restore she tries,
For born a goddess, DULLNESS never dies.

Pope's Dunciad.

L O N D O N:

Printed for Mess. ALMON and DEBRETT, opposite Burlington House,
Piccadilly, and sold by the Booksellers in Cambridge and Oxford.

M DCC LXXXI.

Pope's Dunciad

187
57



Taylor Fund

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

DEC 29 1909

Not a Deposit

INTRODUCTION.

THE licentiousness of modern Poets has been no unfrequent, nor, I must confess, undeserving subject of the severest censure. I believe the insolence of wit in this University has been, at least, equal to that of every other part of the world: we have very lately had our Heroic Epistles, our Poems, and our Pamphlets, which have most audaciously presumed to violate the mystic dignity of age and office, and with unparalleled impiety to tell the world, that the Professorial Chair is not always the seat of Christian meekness and primitive simplicity, nor a College Lodge the seat of Apollo and the Muses. The author of the following sheets emulates not such audacity; conscious that decency is due to age, and respect to office, he is content, for the sake of subordination, to let a W— exhibit Oran-Outangs, and a Pl— expel pamphleteers without

without even a sarcastic observation: his only aim is to drag into the face of day, of ridicule, and of contempt, men who have neither the pretensions of more than partial literature, the dignity of age, the influence of fortune, or the privilege of rank, to entitle them to abrogate laws, and overturn systems founded in wisdom and sanctified by experience, because they happen to thwart their private unprincipled views, or to impede the progress of their insolent ambition.

The * absurdity of a late Grace, which gave occasion to the following lines, has been too notorious to need almost any explanation here; suffice it therefore to

* For the benefit of the curious Reader the author has here subjoined the Grace, which, for *perspicuity* and *classical elegance*, he apprehends can scarcely be equalled by any composition since the Augustan age:

Cum mos nuper in Academiâ invaluerit, ut unusquisque ferè sophistarum aliquem sibi auxilii causâ inter studia prosequenda, quæ ad gradum baccalaureatûs in artibus spectant, sub privati tutoris nomine asciscat, non sine academiæ infamiâ et gravissimis eorum expensis qui summo labore suo et curâ studiosos alunt.

Placeat vobis, ut si quis in posterum scholaris inter biennium gradum suscepturus, inter dicta studia prosequenda cujuslibet usus fuerit auxilio intra academiâ directè vel indirectè, stipendio aut mercede conducti, sive privati tutoris seu alio quocunque sub nomine hujusmodi, omnem sibi aditum ad senioritatem baccalaureis reservatam præclusum intelligat. Provisò tamen, ne ii qui anno proximè sequenti admittendi sunt ad respondendum quæstioni, hoc statuto teneantur.

say,

say, that disappointment was the foundation, persecution the object, and that the necessary effects of it must be indolence and ignorance; the monster itself was generated by three persons, the obscurity of whose situations could not give them hopes of deriving any consequence from swimming in the common stream of judgment and experience: *it* dropped an abortion from the *patriotic* brain of Mr. C—— between the deals of a rubber at whist, who, grinning most delightfully over the half-formed cub, delivered it to the gigantic bear of Queen's, who licked it into shape. Unfortunately neither of them understanding any language but his mother tongue, they turned it over to Mr. S—— to *put* it into a Roman garb. I need not add a comment on this gentleman; he has been famous in the annals of literature from the time he preached a certain funeral sermon to the display of his classical medal at D——y assembly.

Mauled, mangled, and mutilated, the monster passed an astonished senate, by the assistance of a gentleman *,

* This is one of the evils that have arisen from the late scandalous prostitution of University honours: mandate degrees have been conferred upon numbers of people whose only recommendation was their acquaintance with the Heads of colleges. There was however in this instance a proper degree of resentment in the junior part of the senate; it was with difficulty that this gentleman's degree passed the House of Incurables, and the White Hoods were overpowered only by the privilege which the Doctors possess of voting amongst them.

B

who,

who, if he had not been a stranger to common delicacy, would have remembered, that the University a few days before had thought him much more fit to manage his father's hounds than to superintend academical education.

This is a true and exact state of facts. I am sure, candid Reader, let thy age or rank be what it will, as thou wouldst support learning and education, and discourage indolence and ignorance, thou wilt applaud my motive, whatever thou mayst think of my rhymes.

T H E

TRIUMPH OF DULLNESS.

CANTO THE FIRST.

WHERE great St. John's, in Gothic pomp array'd,
Casts o'er the muddy tide a fullen shade,
And many a branching elm conceals in night
Her slumb'ring fons, and hides the peering light;
Nought but deep silence 'mid the gloom prevails, 5
Save where deep snorings frequent load the gales;
Or save, when logic's jarring tribes advance,
Scholastic thunders wake them from their trance.

Ver. 1. Where great St. John's pours forth her num'rous fons,
Her Goths and Vandals, Hottentots and Huns.

Vid. Man. Car. in Bbl. Bod.

Bending

Bending with grief, on squallid earth reclin'd,
 Breathing the secret anguish of her mind, 10
 Sat DULLNESS, mighty mistress of the scene :
 Sad were her looks, disorder'd was her mien,
 Her dusky robes were torn, her raven hair
 Loose o'er her shoulders hung in wild despair ;
 The wither'd poppies dropped around her head, 15
 While fast she dropp'd her tears, and thus she said :
 " Blest was the age, blest the triumphant hour,
 " When Granta bow'd obsequious to my power ;
 " When each, like Margaret's owls, at peep of day,
 " Blink'd at the sun, and fled the piercing ray, 20
 " With Wolfius cramm'd, or Bergerfdicius fed,
 " And metaphysic fogs enwrapp'd each head.
 " Witness, ye hallow'd walls, for ye have seen
 " The full orb'd glories of your gracious Queen ;
 " Witness, ye groves, whose murky haunts among, 25
 " While circling frogs hoarse croak'd their ev'ning song,
 " Erst my own Rutherford, profoundest sage !
 " Cull'd every wreath that decks his ample page,

19. Margaret Countess of Richmond, foundress of St. John's college.

" And

" And skill'd to grope in Nature's darkest lore,
 " Nobly *obscur'd* whate'er was *clear* before ; 30
 " While Folly scoff'd, meek Learning's sons were mute,
 " And schoolmens jargon swell'd each fierce dispute :
 " How chang'd, alas ! from her whose princely brow
 " Bade Masters rev'rence, and stiff Doctors bow ;
 " While as I stalk'd along, each groaning sod 35
 " Teem'd with fresh dunces wheresoe'er I trod.
 " Ah, sad reverse ! with each increasing year
 " The waning splendors of my reign appear.
 " Coop'd in these limits, all that now remain
 " Of former grandeur, and my wide domain ; 40
 " Here, here alone, my leaden sceptre rules
 " Some flumbering dunces, some lethargic fools,
 " Who loyal still, still steady to my cause,
 " Defend my precepts, and protect my laws."

Scarce had she spoke, o'erwhelm'd with sobs and tears,
 When C——, her great prime minister, appears : 46

46. A well-known personage in the University, noted for his public lectures, whist, and politics.

C

C——

C—— her arch counsellor, her chief support,
 The trustiest servant of the Johnian court:
 Each morn beheld his labours for her right,
 Which scarce were ended with departing light, 50
 Search Granta round; who e'er so skill'd as he,
 For Johnian wit, or Johnian sophistry?
 Who e'er so skill'd the mangled word to twist
 With tort'ring pun, or thrid the maze of Whist?
 Who e'er so skill'd in coffee-house debate, 55
 To show the hidden springs that move the state?
 When fiercely sputtering in his vieful mood,
 With half-form'd speech he frightens—Mr. Jude.
 Such was the hero, who, by nature led,
 And cholic's angry summons, left his bed, 60
 And onward press'd, at Cloacina's call,
 To seek her grotto near the college wall;
 Whole tatter'd leaves, from useless Newton torn,
 His pockets fill'd, in either hand was borne

55. This gentleman is to be seen from Four till Seven in the afternoon every day at Jude's.

57. "Madness laughing in her vieful mood." Dryden.

58. The master of an eminent coffee-house in Cambridge.

A page

A page of Hoyle, to study, as he paid. 65
 His lib'ral offerings to the sooty maid.
 Sad Dullness spy'd her fav'rite from afar,
 And hail! she cry'd, all hail! illustrious C——,
 The well-known voice he heard, and straight forgot
 His visit to the goddess of the grot; 70
 Pleas'd at his haste, the goddess ceas'd to sigh,
 A gleam of hope quick glancing from her eye;
 With mutual yawns the greetings first begin,
 She broadly grinn'd, and he return'd the grin.
 When thus the goddess: "Thank propitious Fate, 75
 " That gives such comforts in my abject state;
 " By thee inspir'd, hope and ambition roll
 " Spring tides of new-born fancies o'er my soul:
 " Methinks I see the glories of my reign
 " Thrive by thy care, and blossom forth again. 80
 " I know thy head is for contrivance form'd,
 " As by true loyalty thy breast is warm'd;

77. When Liberty and Virtue roll
 Spring tides of fancy o'er the poet's soul.

Vide Hayley's Epistle to Howard.

" O! may thy soul, like mine, new ardour feel
 " To aid thy mistress with this wonted zeal;
 " O! set to work that *fine inventive* brain, 85
 " Thy genius cannot labour long in vain;
 " Long has thy life obey'd my gentle rule,
 " Supremely stupid, uniformly dull.
 " Then rouse, my faithful servant, nobly dare,
 " Schemes such as thine may wake a monarch's care: 90
 " Who knows but G—— may, like another James,
 " Assert my cause, and vindicate my claims.
 " Hush, my prophetic tongue, nor e'er relate
 " The wonders which my raptur'd thoughts create!
 " How glad St. John's, like Trinity, may feast 95
 " A king, and glory in a royal guest;
 " How priggish P——, as Arnold's self shall teach,
 " May greet the monarch in a Latin speech;
 " A new Albumazar, by K—pl—g made,
 " By Johnian Undergraduates be play'd, 100
 " And thou, my C——, at G—GE's high mandamus,
 " Tagg'd with dog Latin, write an ignoramus.

95. A proper bait for a Johnian; they are envious of the excellencies of the neighbouring college.

Mark

" Mark too, my son, the rich preferment's charms,
 " The bright rewards that wait thy conqu'ring arms,
 " Should at thy feet expiring science fall, 105
 " Perchance a bishopric, at least a stall."

She spoke; the hero tow'r'd above the skies,
 Lawn sleeves and mitres danc'd before his eyes;
 He laughs, transported at his future lot,
 And thinks he's dubb'd a Bishop on the spot; 110
 Long time he dwelt upon the pleasing theme,
 As one entranc'd;—then, waking from his dream,
 He thus replies: " I fly, great Queen, I fly
 " At thy command, to conquer or to die:
 " Oft have I strictly sworn (and thou hast heard 115
 " The solemn sound, and ratify'd the word)
 " Should Sense or Science e'er assault thy throne,
 " I'd shake my Gorgon wig, and stare them into stone:
 " Since thou and Arnold bade St. John's be mine,
 " (Let parents judge) I've serv'd no cause but thine. 120
 " Sooner shall M——d quit a T——t's throne,
 " Preferring England's interest to his own;

119. Mr. C— succeeded the sub-preceptor and tutorship of St. John's.

121. M——d, fellow of K—'s College, M——r for the university; and
 S——d G——l.

- " Sooner shall Watſon, from his courtier wings,
 " Shed balmy flatt'ry in the ears of kings ;
 " Sooner ſhall Marg'ret's herd forſake their mud, 125
 " And ſeek the lavings of the cryſtal flood ;
 " Sooner black, bearish, H——, with brow ſerene,
 " Shall gently ſmile, than I deſert my Queen.
 " Marshall'd, whene'er I call, thy Johnian ſons
 " Shall form a phalanx firm as Macedon's ; 130
 " Fix'd as the baſis of the marble rock,
 " Shall ſtem whole tides of wit, and brave the furious ſhock.
 " Nor think on us thy only hope depends,
 " Far diſtant roofs conceal as zealous friends.
 " Blow loud the trump, immortal war proclaim 135
 " 'Gainſt brilliant wit, and ſcientific fame ;
 " Dunce ſhould'ring dunce ſhall riſe in deep array,
 " And ſtrew with Folly's choiceſt flow'rs thy way.
 " But far above the reſt, with large ſupplies
 " Triumphant Queen's ſhall greet thy wond'ring eyes, 140
 " Queen's, where enthron'd the great Goliah rules,
 " The ſenate's terror, bugbear of the ſchools :

141. This name was given to the reverend tutor in a ſcurrilous pamphlet, which was treated with merited contempt by every one ; but ſo agreeable are ſeveral traits in this gentleman's character to ſome in Goliah's of old, that the University has ever ſince dignified him with this title.

" This is the champion sure, by Fate decreed,
 " In gloomy ranks thy martial troops to lead ;
 " Himself an host, thy empire's best defence, 145
 " Arm'd with the mail of harden'd impudence.
 " Be mine the task to win him to our cause ;
 " Tho' fierce his soul, and unrestrain'd by laws,
 " As tygers savage, rude as troubled seas,
 " Pow'r scarce can tame him, pleasure scarce can please,
 " Be thine, my much-lov'd Mistress, round his head 151
 " Damp thick'ning fogs, and murky mists to spread ;
 " Quench in his breast each spark of genius' fire,
 " Till Sense and Science with a hiss expire."
 Well pleas'd, the Goddess rais'd her leaden eyes, 155
 And yawning loud approv'd his sage advice ;
 The yawn divine o'er all the hallow'd ground
 In magic circles slowly crept around,
 Low sleepy murmurs fill'd the dark abode,
 And elm-trees nodded, and confess'd the God ; 160
 Thro' Marg'ret's courts the potent opiates fly,
 And ev'ry Johnian yawns by sympathy.

F I N I S.